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CORRECTION

CIO President Philip Murray said at the Portland Convention that FTA had only 24,000 members, adding that it had dropped from 54,000 the year before.

President Murray was misinformed. Last year, FTA paid per capita on 46,000 members. This year, FTA paid per capita on 38,000.

The records are available at the office of CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey and at the national office of FTA.

THE NEW CONGRESS

The new 81st Congress comes into office a few days after the New Year. Unlike the 80th Congress, the 81st was sent to Washington with a definite mandate for a real return to the New Deal. There can be no doubt of what the voters had in mind when they kicked better than 100 of the worst reactionaries out of office and substituted men pledged to progressivism in their place.

The 81st Congress, however, will be like the 80th—and the 79th and the others that went before—in one respect. Its members will produce exactly as the voters tell them to produce.

Members of FTA share the hopes of all voters for the 81st Congress and the Truman Administration. They hope and expect that total repeal of the Taft-Hartley act, a passage of a $1.00 an hour minimum wage law, housing, health, social security and the rest of the program as promised by the Democrats.

Hope and expectation alone are not enough. Militant, sustained political action is also required to make the promises come true.

Members of FTA are ready to work in unity with all workers and with all progressive groups for these ends.

'SOCIALISM'

The American Medical Association—the chief organization of doctors in the country—is engaging in a last-ditch fight against national health insurance and other health plans.

The AMA has just announced it will assess each of its members $25 to be used in a publicity campaign against legislation that may seek to put health within the means of the people.

Presumably the public will be treated to a whole series of ads, canned radio programs, planted maagzine articles and the like on the alleged horrors of national health planning. We will even hear that such planning is "socialistic," that it will destroy the "sacred relation" between doctor and patient, etc.

England and European countries have had national health insurance in various forms for better than 50 years. It is no more "socialistic" than government operation of the post office or municipal operation of schools.

It is time and more than time that American workers had the protection that national health insurance brings. Billions of dollars in wages are lost every year through sickness and premature death. The cost in terms of human suffering is incalculable.

FROM WASHINGTON

LAME DUCK SPASM

By C. W. FOWLER

One of the pecularities of the U. S. Constitution is the holdover system after a Federal election, by which the new Adminstration and the new Congress do not take over until two months after the election is held.

This interim—which used to last four months until it was whittled down in Roosevelt's time to two—produces what is known as the "lame-duck" Congress and, in case of defeat, a "lameduck" Administration. Thus, although the 80th Congress was pretty thoroughly repudiated at the polls November 2, its Representatives and Senators, including all those who were defeated, still hold office.

The 80th Congress, of course, is not in session, but it still has—and is using—its power to do business for the corporations that controlled it lock, stock and barrel during its two year stay in office.

This is possible through the growth of the Committee system of doing Congressional business. As of this date, at least four such committees are hard at work, seeking in the time that remains to them to undo as much of the voters' mandate as they can.

ITEM: the House unAmerican Activities Committee. This group, two of whose worst members, Rep. McDowell (R., Pa.) and Richard B. Vail (R., Ill.) were defeated, has been indulging itself and the newspapers in a hectic spasm of war-mongering, smearing and manufactured spy scares. "Secrets" 10 years old are found in pumpkins. Individuals who once worked for the New Deal—a crime in itself, according to unAmerican standards—are pilloried and their reputations blasted hourly. The country is treated to a deliberate attempt to create panic exceeding anything contrived before.

ITEM: the House Labor Committee, whose 80th Congress Chairman, Fred A. Hartley, prudently chose not to face the voters, and whose deputy gauleiter, Rep. Charles Kersten, was defeated, continues at the old trade of attacking progressive unions.

One of the principal targets of this bunch of lameducks is the group of FTA local unions in Alaska, which just recently won a big wage raise from the bitterly anti-union Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc.

Newspaper headlines and columnists, featuring Victor ("The Weasel") Reisel are busy using House Labor Committee smears and innuendoes against FTA in the Territory, where FTA this year smashed an industry attempt to impose a company union on the thousands of cannery workers.

The House Labor Committee is also giving the public a free lesson in geography—it seems that Alaska is close to the Soviet Union and that again makes all Alaska workers suspect.

ITEM: a subcommittee of the House Labor Committee headed by Republican Wint Smith from Kansas has come out with a demand for legal bans on the organizing of agricultural workers, asking for new legislation to prohibit it.

ITEM: the Senate Committee on the Economic Report, set up ostensibly to find means of reducing high prices, is coming out daily with statements calculated to make the public believe that nothing can be done, and thus head off the demand for real price control.

ITEM: a subcommittee of the Senate Small Business Committee, headed by big business industrialist Sen. Homer E. Capeheart, is working overtime to head off a real inquiry into monopoly, which is rapidly strangling small businessmen and threatening more inflation and eventual economic collapse.

So it goes. The voters threw out the big business dominated 80th Congress. They kicked the unAmericans in the teeth and repudiated the House Labor goons for their attacks on unions.

But the lameducks have been hard at work just as Nov. 2. Somebody ought to tiptoe over to them and say pardon me, don't you know you're dead?

Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes
From
Officers and Staff of FTA-CIO

DONALD HENDERSON, President; ARMANDO VALDES, Secretary Treasurer; LEWIS BENTZLEY, ROBERT LATHAN, ARMANDO RAMIREZ, Vice-Presidents; JOHN TISA, Director of Organization.

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

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FTA Calls 7th Convention For Feb. 14th In California

In accordance with the FTA Constitution, the 7th convention of the international union has been officially called by the International Executive Board for the period February 14 through 17.

The convention will be held in California, following the unanimous decision of the 6th convention held in January, 1947, in Philadelphia, Pa.

"Our union has lived through a difficult period since the convention of 1947," the official call said. "With the same courage and the same rank and file militancy shown in the past, FTA will continue to win benefits for its members and will continue to help all workers in the industries under its jurisdiction.

"We shall dedicate the 7th convention of PTA to the objectives that have always been our aim—to organize the unorganized, to raise the standard of living of the workers in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries, and to win freedom for our brothers and sisters of all races, creeds, colors and political beliefs."

Site of the convention will be Santa Cruz, Calif., a small resort town on the seashore where ample, non-discriminatory hotel accomodations have been found. Official notice of hotel rates and the need to make reservations early has been sent to all FTA locals. Qualifications for delegates and the number allotted to each local as set forth in the FTA constitution are also included in the call.

"The 7th convention of FTA comes at a time when the working people of America are under the most severe attack by employers and their agents in government," the call declared.

"The members of FTA have reason to be proud of ther union and its record of fighting for the interests of the rank and file, and for its ability to force concessions from many of the biggest and cost powerful corporations in the country," the call added.

Libby's—Doublecrest In Action

Libby, McNeill and Libby, the largest cannery firm in the world and the second largest fruit and vegetable canner, is trying to break its contract with FTA Local 194 and to bust the union in Blue Island, Ill., a small manufacturing town just a few miles outside Chicago.

The story begins, as many such stories do, with a double-cross on the part of the company. Last August 13, as the tomato pack was getting under way, company and union signed a stipulation covering a wage increase, seniority, checkoff, paid holidays, certain inequities etc.—in fact, the works. It brought an average of 12 or 13 cents per hour more to the workers.

The workers dd their part by working long hours to pack a peak tomato crop. Then, when the season was over, the company produced its doublecross. The stipulation was blandly ignored. No move was made to pay the retroactive wages due the workers. The checkoff was not honored. Seniority was disregarded. The union was bluntly told there was no contract, and the workers were told there is no union in Libby's.

The workers immediately responded by massing in front of the plant gates, demading that the company honor the stipulation and put all the agreed points into a new contract.

Libby's is frank. The day after the demonstration, all the FTA stewards were called into the front office and told that FTA representation in the plant was "over." The resignation of Chief Steward Jimmie Moore was flatly demanded. Johnny Manues, who had taken a leave of absence to work for FTA was told he couldn't have his job back, the labor relations director said. "He's too good a union man."

What kind of corporation is Libby, McNeill and Libby? What is the background of its refusal to honor an agreement with 500 workers in Blue Island, Ill? Has Libby's fought against unions other than FTA Local 194?

Libby's past is none too sweet when it comes to fighting unions, fighting anti trust action by the U.S. Government, fighting to corner an increasing share of the food consumer's dollar by building up one of the biggest food monopolies in the U.S.A.

For this background, see story in adjoining column.

(*The manager also added that Manus "stirred up the workers," which, as a good union man, he did. He stirred them up to write letters of protest on the company's high-handed tactics — not that they needed much stirring.*)

The personnel manager of Libby's—a Mr. Schaeffer—is even more free with his anti-union talk. Mr. Schaeffer has a fondness for long words. During negotions Schaeffer told the committee: "This company certainly would try to deprive the workers of everything it could. After all, we're not an eleemoysnary (charitable) institution." Schaeffer, incidentally, is a former AFL business agent.

That, in a nutshell, is Libby's attitude to unions. Beginning in a comparatively small plant, that attitude — unless checked — can spread to other plants and other cities. The canning industry is watching Libby's experiment. If it succeeds, it will be tried elsewhere.

Realizing this, the workers at Libby's and at the huge Campbell soup plant in Chicago, also organized in FTA 194, are fighting back. They're determined to make Libby, McNeill and Libby, the third largest firm in the world, stick by its pledged word.

Members of FTA in Chicago and elsewhere are actively helping the Blue Island workers in their fight to preserve their union and to force the company to make good on its pledge of increased wage and other gains.

Letters to Libby, McNeill and Libby General Offices, Chicago 9, Ill., will help the Blue Island workers persuade this giant food trust to honor a stipulation that was negotiated and accepted by the union in good faith.

Libby's Labor Record—Smelly From Way Back

(The third largest canner in the world—Libby, McNeill and Libby—is trying to destroy FTA Local 194 in its Blue Island, Ill. plant near Chicago).

(In the attempt to break the union, Libby's has resorted to a whole list of anti-labor tricks. There's not much new in them, however, as Libby's record over the years will show.)

Writing to his stockholders in 1948, President Daniel W. Creeden of Libby, McNeill and Libby allowed himself a few well-rounded phrases about collective bargaining. Said Mr. Creeden:

"Contracts with unions have been successfully negotiated . . . This was accomplished through collective bargaining as it was intended, with all parties frankly discussing the situation and coming to mutually satisfactory agreements."

Let us see how this pious statement jibes with the record of Libby's labor relations, developed over the past decades and dug up by the Senate Civil Liberties (LaFollette) Committee of New Deal Days.

The record will show that Libby's is an old hand at anti-unionism, that it has contributed to and led many of the most notoriously open shop, anti-labor employers associations and vigilante groups formed over the past 15 or more years.

ASSOCIATED FARMERS, INC.

Libby's was one of the original financial backers of Associated Farmers, Inc., a strikebreaking, vigilante outfit in California that had nothing to do with real farmers and a great deal to do with fighting unions in the food growing, packing and processing industries under FTA's jurisdiction.

Said the LaFollette Committee on Associated Farmers, Inc: "Similarly, at the instigation of the processors and packers, or their associations, they assumed a strikebreaking and vigilante role wth respect to the organization of canning and processing employes."

Associated Farmers, Inc., broke strikes in Stockton and Salinas, California, where cannery and packingshed workers fought to establish unions in the early 30's. Two workers were killed in the bloody Salinas strike of 1936. The President of Associated Farmers, Inc., mobilized 1,200 deputy sheriffs to break the Stockton strike.

The LaFollette Committee bluntly charged Associated Farmers, Inc., with conspiracy against the U. S. Said the committee's report in 1944: "The record is one of conspiracy—developed on a far-flung scale covering the entire region. That conspiracy, designed to prevent the exercise of their civil libertes by oppressed wage laborers in agriculture, was executed ruthlessly with every device of repression that anti-unionism could muster."

OPEN SHOP GANG

Libby's also belonged to and helped found the Industrial Association of San Francisco, whose purpose was to break strikes. Similarly, Libby's belonged to the Merchants and Manufacturers Association in California. This gang ran an open shop employment agency, recruiting scabs for work on struck jobs.

"Indeed," said the Senate committee, "the sole purpose of the reorganization (of M&M) was to make collective bargaining impossible . . .

"The whole program was carried out as if the National Labor Relations act (Wagner act) had never been passed and in utter disregard of the fact that the nation had been committed for four years to a policy of achieving industrial peace through collective bargaining."

The biggest bosses' organization in the canning industry is California Processors and Growers, Inc., where the bulk of the nation's fruit crop is packed.

Libby's was one of the founders of CP&G, giving it the second biggest financial contribution. CP&G is financed by a royalty on each case of canned goods. As the second largest canner of fruits and vegetables, Libby's has a powerful voice in CP&G policies.

CP&G has consistently fought unions from its foundation. It has fought them either head-on, as before 1937, or by backdoor collusion with company-minded union officials since then.

COMPANY UNIONISM

The LaFollette Committee, citing the National Labor Relations Board, has this to say of CP&G: "Assisted in forming various locals of the (AFL) Cannery Workers Union, partly by contribution of financial aid; had entered into agreements with the California AFL which forced their employes to become 'members of labor organizations affiliated with the AFL though it did not represent the employes;' that these agreements required employes to 'become and remain' members of the Cannery Workers Union; and that certain workers had been refused employment because of their membership in the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers Union, CIO." (former name of FTA.)

In other words, CP&G, of which Libby's was second largest contributor, ran a company union setup to keep a real union—FTA—out of the canning industry in California. All this of course violated the Wagner act,, but Libby's didn't care.

..In 1945 and again in 1946, CP&G conspired to deny 60,000 cannery workers their right to a union of their own choosing. A Labor Board election in which FTA came out on top was set aside. Another election in 1946 was made a farce when CP&G conspired with the AFL to fire and blacklist pro-FTA workers. CP&G is still in business, with Libby's still furnishing the second greatest portion of its funds.

CP&G's attitude toward unions is summed up in a statement by one H. S. Robinson, its secretary: "Unfortunately the better class of workers do not want to bother with labor organizations . . . and so the workers of some regions are in danger of becoming the serfs of the bosses, the profiteers and racketeers of labor."

To put it briefly, CP&G holds that only bums join unions.

CP&G handles all its member firms' labor relations, Libby's concluded. It is a fair assumption that Libby's, the second largest contributor to CP&G, endorses CP&G's labor policies.

Alaska FTA Asks Pay Equality

At a two-day conference held by delegates representing all locals of the FTA-CIO, which bargain for both resident and non-resident cannery workers, a program was unanimously adopted calling for parity for resident cannery workers with non-resident.

The delegates representing Locals 237 Ketchikan; 251 Metlakatla; 265 Craig; 222 Petersburg; 269 Juneau and Local 7, the non-resident local, proposed that wages and conditions of the resident Alaska cannery workers be raised to the level of those received by non-resident workers who are transported to the Territory each year by the salmon industry.

The Ketchikan members of the union will act on the proposals at a membership meeting to be held at the Ketchikan City Council Chambers. Most of the out-of-town conference delegates will attend the meeting. The other locals will likewise call meetings of their membership to take action on the conference program.

The delegates called on the entire West Coast CIO to back the Alaska unions and their program for equality.

40 HOUR WEEK AND $1 FLOOR

In a resolution to the Legislature the conference called on that body to pass legislation which will grant a 40 hour work week and $1.00 an hour minimum wage law for all industries in Alaska. Cannery workers now work a 48 hour week.

ABOLISH FISH TRAPS

The delegates urges that the 81st Congress abide by the mandate of the voters of Alaska and eliminate fish traps from the Territorial waters. Such a move, it was claimed, is necessary to restore the salmon run. In so doing it will increase the revenue of the Territory and raise the wage earner's income as well as provide additional jobs.

REPEAL TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

Outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley law was called for and the restoration of the Wagner act and the Norris-LaGuardio act in their original form. In resolutions to President Truman and Delegate Bartlett the union charged that failure to repeal this law will be tantamount to abridgment of campaign promises made by Harry S. Truman and the Democrats.

The delegates reaffirmed their position of not using the Taft-Hartley Labor Board.

In a report on the Taft-Hartley law, given by Bob Kinney, assistant west coast regional director, it was revealed that those unions not using the Board have fared much better than those that have knuckled under to the dictates of the Board.

According to a recent report by the NLRB only one out of nine local unions in the country have filed to use the Board's services. Of the 60,000 local unions only some 7,000 are using, or have filed to use the Board. Of these 7,000 many have not used the Board but have merely filed in the event they wish to do so. The national picture shows that those unions who chose to fight rather than turn their unions over to the employers established a wage pattern of 13 cents while those that knuckled under to the board settled for five cents and less.

The FTA Cannery Workers, a non-complying union, received an 18 cents an hour increase for its Alaska members in 1948.

CONDEMN THOMAS COMMITTEE

A resolution directed to President Truman condemning the "Un-American Activities Committee" as being a strike breaking organ of the employers maintained at the taxpayers expense and asked that it be dissolved by the 81st Congress.

It accused leaders of the committee, like Thomas, of being un-American by their very actions. Thomas is now under indictment for fraud against the government and is facing $40,000 in fines and possible 34 years in prison sentences.

Members of FTA Local 7 join with farmers in presenting cases of fresh produce to striking maritime workers on the west coast. Solidarity and militancy of the workers won, despite floods of redbaiting in the press. Shipowners attempt to use refusal of striking CIO Longshoremen and Marine Cooks to sign Taft-Hartley affidavits as a strikebusting weapon failed.

Henderson Introduces Minority Report; Asks End To Cold War; Raiding; Disunity

Speaking for the miinority of the Committee on Officers Reports (the group that passes on the President of the CIO's report to the annual convention) at the meeting of the National CIO in Portland, Oregon, FTA President Donald Henderson read the following statement into the record.

The minority statement concurred in all sections of the report except those dealing with foreign policy, arms spending, raiding of CIO unions and the activities of CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey.

The minority report questioned reliance "for the realization of its objectives upon the mere goodwill of politicians," and declared: "Only a militant and vigorous prosecution of its program, with unity within its ranks, will bring the desired results:

Text of the minority report, which was signed by FTA President Henderson, by Irving Potash of the Fur and Leather Workers and Joseph Johnson of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union, follows in full:

The undersigned join the majority of the Officers Report Committee in expressing concurrence with many sections of the Report. We join the majority in noting many achievements and contributions to the well-being of the working people and to the welfare of the country made by the CIO and its president, Philip Murray But we are constrained to abstain from expressing approval of the entire Report because of exceptions which must be taken to certain sections.

First: The Report properly calls upon the 81st Congress to fulfill the mandate of the people emphatically given in the recent election for a vast program for housing, education, social security, health insurance, reclamation and public power projects.

However, the Report accepts without criticism continuing high level of expenditures for armaments, peacetime conscription and for the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan to preserve such fascist regimes as in Greece and China and Turkey and rebuild the Nazis in Western Germany.

Our bipartisan foreign policy, which compels these huge outlays for the continuance of the cold war, is draining off three fourths of the income of the Federal government.

We believe that we cannot obtain the desired social legislation, improve our living standards and pursue such foreign policy.

This conclusion is confirmed by the Report, which states that we must face continued rising prices and inflation and also acknowledges the illusion of the present so-called prosperity.

We must obtain a foreign policy which seeks peace—not armaments—if we are to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the American people for peace and abundance.

MARSHALL PLAN

Second: The Report describes the ostensible objectives of the Marshall Plan as being:

"(1) To care for destitute people so as to conserve their strength and resources.

"(2) To aid these people in re-establishing their own economies.

"(3) To permit participating nations to solve their internal problems without political interference from other nations."

But the facts reveal a shocking betrayal of these objectives.

It is an established fact that Nazi industrialists in Western Germany have been reinstated to their former positions of power and influence. Huge sums of the Marshall Plan are being given to these Nazis to rebuild German cartels and trustss in heavy industry.

It cannot be denied that the French miners—struggling for a wage increase, refusing to work under starvation conditions—are shot and beaten by the French Government and police under direction of American administrators of the Marshall Plan.

FUNDS TO FASCISTS

It is common knowledge that funds are being given to the fascist regimes in Greece, China and Turkey, where all bona fide unions have been destroyed and labor leaders are persecuted and murdered.

We favor an effective program of economic aid for the relief and rehabilitation of the war-devastated and economically backward nations.

A plan administered by the representatives of Wall Street to further a cold war against the Soviet Union holds no hope for the peoples of the foreign lands or for America. We deplore the acceptance by labor representatives of advisory positions to the Wall Street and military administrators of the Marshall Plan which can only serve to cloak the true designs of American Big Business both at home and abroad.

To achieve the fine objectives for foreign economic aid as set forth in the Report, an effective program must be carried out through the United Nations and the participation of all countries.

CAREY'S TESTIMONY

Third: The Report properly condemns the work of the House Labor Committee of the 80th Congress for its vicious and unbridled attacks against labor unions.

We feel that this attitude requires serious criticism of ecretary James B. Carey for his malicious testimony before such Committee which gave aid and comfort to the House Labor Committee in its unprincipled attack against the UE, its officers and members.

By Donald Henderson
General President

(see statement, next column)

The issues that needed attention at the 10th CIO convention held in Portland, Ore., in November, were:

1. The national economy and foreign policy.

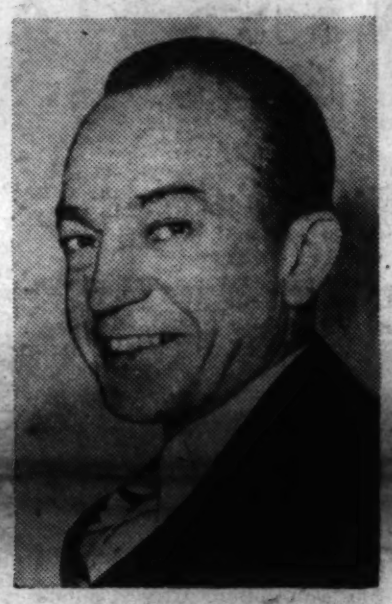
2. The need for higher living standards and wage increases.

3. The need to continue the organization of unorganized workers, without interference and sabotage from raiding.

4. The right of free speech and free political action within the CIO.

These issues were raised in the minority report submitted by your president as spokesman for a minority group within the Committee on Officers Reports.

Since we felt that the report of President Murray to the CIO convention did not



Henderson

sufficiently cover these issues, it was our duty to present them in the form of exceptions to President Murray's report. It should be pointed out that the minority fully endorsed President Murray's report with the exception of these issues.

DISTORTION

The minority report was subjected to distortion and deliberate falsehood in the daily press accounts of the convention. It was made to seem that the minority was solely concerned with the Marshall Plan, and that all its criticism of President Murray's report was directed at this portion of it.

The minority report was concerned with the Marshall Plan and the bipartisan foreign policy of the Truman administration as they affect the welfare of workers here at home and abroad. It pointed out that the kind of national economy dictated by a policy of cold war was bound to lead to high prices and lowered living standards for the American people. The minority also cited the way Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine funds and arms have been used against the workers in other countries, such as Greece, China, France, Turkey, etc.

The conflict between an economy of huge armaments leading toward war and an economy of abundance for all people was emphasized. The minority believed that housing, health, education, social security and the like could not be attained while three-quarters of the Federal income went for war.

Believing this, the minority considered that its duty was to say so, regardless of the criticism and attacks that might come its way.

LIVING STANDARDS

In the discussion around President Murray's report and around other points on the convention agenda, the question of wages and living standards was raised. It is our belief that wages and living standards cannot be improved while the Truman administration pursues a foreign policy of cold war and huge expenditures for arms. It is also our belief that the wages and living standards of workers are seriously threatened by certain developments that have taken place within the CIO in the past year.

Here the minority report, and the discussion carried on by a number of delegates from other international unions quite properly raised the question of raiding of CIO unions by other CIO affiliates.

While we endorsed wholeheartedly the position of the Murray report and the resolution offered by the majority of the Resolutions Committee on the Tat-Hartley act, we felt that a clearcut position in opposition to internal CIO raiding was lacking.

With this belief, the minority urged that the CIO convention adopt a positive stand against raiding, on the grounds that such tactics "only serve the interests of the enemies of labor and serve as an enormous obstacle to the organization of the unorganized."

The minority also called for a criticism of CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey for his hostile testimony on the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers union before the House Labor Committee.

These points were raised as supplements to the Murray report and to the report of the Resolutions Committee. No one at the convention opposed the CIO stand on the Taft-Hartley act or on interference by Congressional committees with the internal affairs of unions. We felt, however, that the CIO convention majority statements did not go far enough.

POLITICAL ACTION

One of the main principles of the CIO or any labor organization is the right of autonomous affiliated unions to independent political action. This right is embodied in the international constitution of our own union and is in the constitution of the national CIO.

For this reason, the delegates from FTA and from other unions were opposed to threats uttered against unions whose members and officers supported the Progressive Party and Henry Wallace during the election. FTA's International Executive Board, as you know, unanimously supported Wallace and the Progressive Party and passed a resolution urging affiliated FTA locals to take similar action. This was based on the belief of the International Executive Board and of many thousands of FTA members that Wallace's candidacy was in the best interests of the workers and merited our support.

At no time did FTA officers seek to impose an endorsement of Wallace or any other candidate or party on our locals or members.

Our delegates, therefore, felt that unions and members of CIO were perfectly within their rights when they chose to endorse particular candidates or parties. We did not agree with the majority position in the resolution on political action, which condemned all thought of political action independent of the two old parties.

The minority report felt that sole reliance on the "mere goodwill" of politicians of the old parties was a danegr to the labor movement, and we said so.

We further added our belief that the campaign put up by Wallace and the Progressive Party, aided by the members of the unions that supported him, was a great factor in raising the issues on which President Truman was elected. We did not agree at any time that the Progressive campaign would

(Continued on page 5)

RAIDING

Fourth: The Report properly stamps the Taft-Hartley Act as the most infamous and reactionary piece of legislation ever designed by the human mind.

For this reason, we believe the Reports errs in not reprimanding the activity of certain unions in utilizing the Taft-Hartley law to raid other CIO unions. Such raiding can only serve the interests of the enemies of labor and serves as an enormous obstacle to the organization of the unorganized.

Fifth: The Report correctly indicates that the people in the 1948 election endeavored to express their determined support for the principles of the New Deal and their desires to have those principles translated into constructive action.

We are of the opinion that those unions, their oficials and members who gave support to the Progressive Party and Wallace, made their contribution in the formation of such expression through the clarification of issues and the general awakening of the people to the dangers of reaction. We further believe that it behooves organized labor not to rely for the realization of its objectives upon the mere good will of politicians. Only a militant and vigorous prosecution of its program, with unity within its ranks, will bring the desired results.

We have set forth our exceptions, and we join the majority in concurring with the other sections of the Report. We, therefore, abstain in the vote on the Report in its entirety.

CIO Parley Hears Minority Exceptions

(see statement, page 4)

The newspapers, as usual, gave a wholly distorted picture of the events at the 10th national CIO convention held November 22-26 in Portland, Ore.

Reading the newspaper accounts, which naturally gave the greatest amount of coverage to CIO President Philip Murray's speeches, the reader may well have thought that the entire discussion was confined to two points — "communism" in the CIO and the Marshall Plan.

It is true that President Murray dealt at great length with these two subjects, and that he linked them together in his speeches. It is not true, however, that the Marshall Plan was the sole or even the main subject of the minority report brought on the floor of the convention by FTA President Donald Henderson.

ONE POINT OF FIVE

The minority report, which criticized and took exception to some parts of CIO President Murray's report to the delegates, dealt with the Marshall or European Recovery Plan in one point of a series of five, and dealt with it in its effect on the national economy. The rest of the Murray report was endorsed.

The minority commended Murray's report where it "quite properly" called on the 81st Congress to "fulfill the mandate of the people emphatically given in the recent election for a vast program of housing, education, social security, health insurance, reclamation and public power projects."

However, the minority added, "the (Murray) reportaccepts without criticism a continuing high level of expenditures for armaments, peacetime conscription and for the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan to preserve such fascist regimes as in Greece and China and Turkey and rebuild the Nazis in western Germany. Our bipartisan foreign policy which compels these huge outlays for the continuance of the cold war is draining off three-fourths of the income of the federal government."

Moranda Smith

The minority concluded its discussion of the effect on the national economy of the present foreign policy by saying:

"We believe that we cannot obtain the desired social legislation, improve our living standards and pursue such foreign policy.

"We must obtain a foreign policy which seeks peace—not armaments — if we are to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the American people for peace and abundance."

The minority then urged a program of aid to war-torn areas through the United Nations, after pointing out that ERP or Marshall Plan funds were today being used to oppress workers struggling for their rights in a number of European countries and in China.

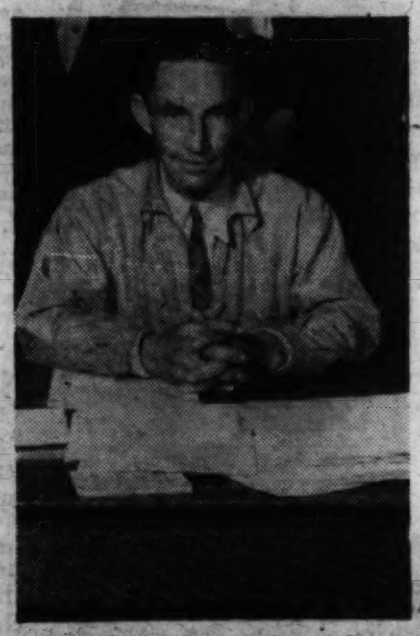
CONDEMN RAIDING

Turng to other sections of the Murray report, the minority noted that it "properly condemns the work of the House Labor Committee of the 80th Congress for its vicious and unbridled attacks against labor unions."

Then the minority added: "We feel that this attitude requires serious criticism of Secretary James B. Carey for his malicious testimony before such committee which gave aid and comfort to the House Labor committee in its unprincipled attack against the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers union, its officers and members."

President Murray's report "properly stamps the Taft-Hartley act as the most infamous and reactionary piece of legislation ever designed by the human mind," the minority said, adding that the report "errs in not reprimanding the activity of certain unions in utilizing the Taft-Hartley act to raid other CIO unions."

Such raiding, the minority pointed out, only serves "the interests



Duke Cunningham

of the enemies of labor and serves as an enormous obstacle to the organization of the unorganized."

WARN OF POLITICIANS

The minority then turned to the national election and the role played in it by union officials and members who supported Henry Wallace.

"We are of the opinion that those unions, their officials and members who gave support to the Progressive Party and Henry Wallace made their contribution to the formation of such expression through the clarification of issues and the general awakening of the people to the dangers of reaction."

The minority report concluded on a warning note that unions should not put too much trust in the "mere goodwill' of politicians, saying:

"We further believe that it behooves organized labor not to rely for the realization of its objectives upon the mere goodwill of politicians. Only a militant and vigorous prosecution of its program, with unity within its ranks, will bring the desired results."

Armando Valdes

As in previous years, FTA sent five delegates to the 10th national CIO Convention in Portland, Ore. The number of delegates is based upon the number of per capita payments from the internationals to the CIO.

FTA's five delegates were chosen by the FTA International Executive Board. They were:

Donald Henderson, general president.

Armando Valdes, general secretary-treasurer.

Moranda Smith, asst. regional director, Local 7.

Duke Cunningham, president, Salinas-Watsonville Hollister Division, Local 78.

Ernest Mangoang, Local 7.

Ernest Mangoang

No ifs, ands or buts—TOTAL REPEAL of the Taft-Hartley law is the mandate to the 81st Congress. Ask your shop steward for a copy of the FTA Petition to President Truman urging immediate repeal, sign it and get your neighbor to sign.

CIO Repeats Civil Rights, Taft-Hartley, Wage Stand

Reaffirming its traditional stand on civil rights and other social and economic issues of concern to workers, the 10th CIO convention held in Portland, Ore., last month unanimously called for a program of civil rights including:

1. Total repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, with revival of the Wagner act to take its place, plus immediate dismissal of Robert N. Denham from his post as general counsel of the NLRB.

2. Repeal of the polltax as a qualification for voting; passage of a strong anti-lynching law; passage of a Federal FEPC and an end to discrimination in the armed forces and other Federal institutions.

3. Abolition of the unAmerican Activities Committee of Congress and rescinding of the so-called "loyalty order" directed against government workers.

On wages, the convention adopted a brief resolution declaring: "It is essential in a dynamic economy for wages to be ever increasing" and adding that "it is possible for wages to increase and living standards to improve within the framework of a reasonable profit structure for American industry."

The convention also adopted a resolution calling for a minimum wage of $1.00 an hour, with greatly increased coverage and overtime pay for workers not now included in the wage hour act.

A separate resolution expressed CIO support for unions forced to strike when employers refuse to bargain collectively on wages and other issues was also unanimously passed by the convention's 600 delegates.

The CIO maritime strike on the west coast, which ended in victory shortly after the convention was over, also received unanimous support.

Tax policy was covered in a resolution calling for the right to a tax free income of $3,000 for a wage-earner with a family, $1,500 for a single worker plus exemptions of $600 for each dependent.

The convention urged the reimposition of the excess profits tax and the closing of loopholes which now permit corporations and wealthy individuals to evade their fair share of the national tax burden.

A rollback of prices plus price control "on all commodities which basically affect the cost of living and/or agricultural and industrial expansion was urged, with necessary rationing and allocation of scarce commodities to make it work.

On repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, which the convention declared to be a threat to all living standards and security of the workers, the resolution said:

"With united determination we dedicate the CIO and its entire membership to the mission of obtaining repudiation and repeal of the Taft-Hartley act.

"We call upon the President and the new Congress promptly to remove this evil law from our statute books and to restore the Wagner act as the law of the land."

FTA 22 Urges CIO Condem Raiding In North Carolina

An appeal to all CIO unions in North Carolina to protest raiding of FTA Local 22 was sent out this week by Lewis Bentzley and Robert Lathan, international FTA vice-presidents.

The appeal called attention to the attempt led by CIO Regional Director William Smith and officials of the CIO Transport Service Employes Union to disrupt the FTA union in the giant R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. plants in Winston-Salem, N. C.

Citing a unanimous resolution passed at a Local 22 meeting condemning the raiding tactics of the CIO officials, the letter sent out by Bentzley and Lathan said:

"Local 22 has been struggling without a contract in the R. J. Reynolds plants since May of this year. We are in a drive to organize the white workers, which, if successful, would place both Negro and white workers in a position to secure a signed contract.

"There has been no disunity in the local with the program, policies and paths being followed by the membership. This raid seeks to create division at a time when unity is the greatest need."

The FTA letter revealed an attempt by CIO Director Smith and Transport leaders to "buy off Robert C. Black, one of the outstanding leaders of Local 22 and one of the prominent leaders of the Negro people in North Carolina."

This attempt failed when "Brother Black put a 'No Sale' sign on his chest," the statement added. Since then, the raiding CIO officials have attempted to approach other leaders in the FTA union—with the same lack of success.

The statement concludes by asking that "Bill Smith and the Transport Service Employes put their money where it will do the greatest good—in organizing the many thousands of unorganized workers in North Carolina.

"We ask them to keep their noses out of disorganizing the organized. We ask support of all CIO unions in demanding that workers' money be used for the constructive purpose of strengthening existing unions and organizing the unorganized, not for the destructive purpose of creating fratricidal war in the CIO."

CIO union members in North Carolina were urged to write to Smith and to CIO National Director of Organization Allan Haywood in Washington, D. C., protesting the attempted raids.

Henderson Introduces Minority Report;

(Continued from Page 4)

be a help to reactionary candidates. We think the election results, in which 100 Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley law were deefated, bear us out.

The minority agreed wholeheartedly with the objectives of CIO-PAC. The national officers of FTA, in the statement published immediately after the election (FTA News, November 1948) took a similar position. We will of course continue to work with CIO-PAC and other progressive organizations for those objectives.

CIO CHARTERS

The majority put forward a resolution on organization which we felt was a dangerous threat to the autonomy of CIO unions, and which we gave authority to the national CIO Executive Board to take over unions which, in its opinion, had failed to do an adequate job of organizing the workers in its jurisdiction.

The minority felt this to be a threat not only to the autonomy of international unions, but also a threat to the organizing of the unorganized. President Murray, however, specifically stated that the resolution did not give the CIO the power to lift an international union charter.

POSITIVE ASPECTS

The CIO convention was not, as the newspapers attempted to make out, simply a fight between Philip Murray and the minority. For every point on which we disagreed there were 10 on which we were in agreement.

Thus, the CIO convention reaffirmed its traditional progressive policy on civil rights, discrimination, polltax, lynching and other questions concerning civil liberties. The convention called for the abolition of the un-American Activities Committee and the rescinding of the President's loyalty order.

The position on repeal of the Taft-Hartley law was clear, as was the demand for the dismissal of Robert Denham.

The resolution on wages, while not specifically raising the demand for an increase now, was also a progressive one, as was the demand for a $1.00 an hour minimum wage.

Our delegates felt that the resolution on the World Federation of Trade Unions was weak, and that it might pave the way for withdrawal of the CIO from that body. In view of the extreme importance of the WFTU to international working class solidarity, I spoke against the resolution.

The 10th CIO convention brought a great many issues out into the open that had been smoldering for months. It served again to state many of the objectiyes which CIO has struggled to attain over the years. A sizable number of delegates disagreed with some of the methods proposed for winning these objectives. As representatives of international unions, it was their duty to do so.

In the meantime, we must not allow ourselves to be misled by newspaper accounts of what happened in Portland.

A wage increase is out of the question... Let's issue another comic book instead...

FTA Locals Fight N. C. Rule Forcing Workers To Take $7 A Week Jobs

Demands that a wage floor of 75 cents an hour for 40 hours a week be set on any job to which unemployed North Carolina workers may be referred as "suitable employment" were made by a joint conference of FTA locals, in a statement charging that the present unemployment compensation law of North Carolina threatens workers in all industries with "potential strikebreakers" and forces Negro women to seek house work "under slave conditions."

(The North Carolina unemployment compensation law provides that compensation shall be cut off from an unemployed worker who refuses to take "suitable" employment when offered. No wage requirements are set up by the law to determine what is or what is not "suitable" work.)

The conference, covering various branches of FTA Local 10 throughout the Eastern North Carolina belt, and Local 22 in Winston-Salem, N. C., met in Wilson, N. C. It issued a statement saying that growing unemployment tendencies in textile, furniture and other industries, and the unemployment of tobacco leafhouse workers at the approaching end of the season, can rapidly undermine the wage standards of the state, unless there is a ruling to protect jobless workers from being forced to take work at sharp decreases in pay.

"The failure to set wage standards in jobs offered to unemployed workers means that in periods of widespread unemployment, the law itself acts as an instrument to create large numbers of potential strikebreakers," the leaf union said.

Workers who still have jobs, it explained, may find opposition to wage cuts difficult, since the companies know the jobless are forced to take work at any price, or lose their compensation.

"Negro women of the seasonal leafhouses," said an FTA press release from the conference, "have for years been forced to seek household work at $7 or $8 a week, or low-paying agricultural work, during the closed season, or be denied unemployment compensation, on the grounds that such jobs are "suitable" within the meaning of the law. This is a merciless device to destroy the law's intended protection of wage standards at safe levels, by forcing Negro women to bid for work under slave conditions."

A ruling which would prevent unemployment compensation offices from terming any job "suitable" within the meaning of the act, unless it paid 75 cents an hour for 40 hours a week, would enable workers to draw unemployment compensation rather than accept "starvation wages," the union stated.

"Such a change," it declared, would benefit the whole state, and be of direct help to the families of white wage earners in all industries, whose living standards are now held far below that of Northern workers by just such devices as this unemployment squeeze on Negro women.

"Classifying seasonal tobacco workers as cooks and maids and forcing them to seek employment from door to door without any means of transportation, begging for $7 a week jobs, is a useful tool for the big company owners to bargain down the whole wage structure."

The leaf union said offices at 13½ E. Hargett St., Raleigh, N. C., have been set up to work especially on this problem. It invited all interested groups to communicate with this office, saying, "Workers in other unions and industries cannot afford to let the threat of this unemployment compensation situation go unnoticed . . .

"The law is supposed to protect wage levels and living standards, on which the prosperity of small business men and farmers also depend, from rapid and dangerous drops at times of unemployment. Trade, agricultural and professional groups cannot afford, either, to let the lack of a wage floor in the unemployment compensation law turn it from protection for income levels to an actual threat at the first breath of depression."

The leafhouse workers' program adopted by the FTA conference also included demands for $25 a week unemployment compensation for 26 weeks; a minimum wage of $1 an hour; a 30-hour week for 40 hours' pay; time-and-a-half pay over 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week, "especially for women, who work long hours (55 to 60 hours) in the plant and also have to do their homework of 20 to 25 hours per week"; and removal of the 14 weeks' exemption on overtime pay.

"Government statistics," the program stated, "prove that it takes $3,500 a year for a family of five to live, while there are some 30,000 leafhouse tobacco workers in North Carolina whose earnings are from $400 to $600 a year, and whose problems are being increased because of the continuous rise in the cost of living and the shortening of the leafhouse season due to modern speed-up methods."

80's 8 Teams

(see picture, page 8)

FTA Local 80, Camden, N. J., boasts eight softball teams in its Inter-Departmental League, and a fast game of ball they do turn out.

A recent playoff after a hotly-contested series saw the Noodle Department take the pennant from the Maintenance and Digester Dept. Prize was a set of uniform jackets awarded by the local.

American workers lose $500 million annually in wages because of the great cripplers, arthritis and rheumatism, it was disclosed here. Seeking to raise "the modest sum of $2 million by Dec. 11 to provide the answer to the challenge of these dual destroyers," the Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation will use the funds to make a nationwide atack on the dreaded disease.

Dear Mr. President

Repeal Taft-Hartley Law!

The new 81st Congress is due to meet only a few weeks from now. First on the list of must legislation is complete and total repeal of the Taft-Hartley law—as promised by President Truman and the Democratic Party in the election campaign.

But already some political leaders are beginning to talk soft about total repeal. Vice-President elect Barkley told the AFL convention the other day to have "patience" and not to expect "miracles." President Truman has told big business through the NAM that it has nothing to fear from his Administration. Fancy talk about labor and management getting together on new labor laws is going around.

The people voted for total repeal, not for "compromise." The people want the Wagner Act back without any ifs, ands or buts. The people must tell Congress so in loud and firm tones.

FTA petitions for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, for the immediate dismissal of the viciously anti-union General Counsel Robert Denham and for a return to the Wagner act are now circulating in FTA locals.

In case you missed the petition in your local or your shop, we print it in full again below. Sign yourself, get your neighbors to sign, and rush the petitions into the FTA National Office.

Here is the petition:

THE HONORABLE HARRY S. TRUMAN
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Taft-Hartley law is a bad law—bad for the working people and bad for the nation. The election has shown that the people want the Taft-Hartley law repealed.

The people are also opposed to the biased way the National Labor Relations Board and particularly its General Counsel Robert N. Denham have administered this vicious law.

Therefore we call on you and on the 81st Congress to secure the complete repeal of the Taft-Hartley law as soon as Congress meets on January 3. In its place we want the re-enactment of the Wagner Labor Relations act as it was before the Taft-Hartley law was passed.

We also call on you to dismiss Robert N. Denham from the NLRB for bias and prejudice against unions and we call on you to appoint at least two members of the new Board from the ranks of labor.

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural & Allied Workers Union of America, CIO

Return to: DONALD HENDERSON, President
FTA-CIO, 158 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia 3, Penna.

NAME	ADDRESS	UNION

FTA Licked Libby Before; Will Do It Again

The Libby empire stretches from the U. S. to Hawaii, Alaska, and Canada. In Alaska, Libby's is a leading member of Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., employers' association that deals with unions.

This year Alaska Salmon tried its hardest to bust FTA Local 7. Gangsterism, a company union setup, court action, refusal to bargain—everything was used against FTA.

After a sharp struggle FTA Local 7 won a contract with a substantial wage raise, union hiring hall, union security—and the company union was smashed.

Butcher Franco Wants In

Butcher Franco, dictator of fascist-run Spain, wants his share of Marshall Plan gravy—$200 million worth of it, in fact.

The man whose nod has sent literally hundreds of thousands of Spanish workers to death feels "lonely", he says, and adds that the loneliness would be considerably soothed by a slice of U. S. taxpayers' money.

"When nations help each other, they increase mutual love," says the Caudillo. "Spain, as if emerging from a ditch by its own efforts, has felt lonely."

Lonely?

Quite a parade of U. S. corporation bosses and Congressmen have been trying to keep Franco company lately, and a number of them argue that the lonesome dictator should be given a substantial amount of ERP dough.

The parade began with Myron C. Taylor, Truman's special envoy to the Vatican, and has included such men as Vice-President elect Alben Barkley, James A. Farley, the man who wanted to be President, Eric Johnston, former head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and now czar of the movies, two Senators, five common or garden variety of Congressmen, and a string of employers.

Meantime, in Spain itself, the conditions of the people get worse daily. The number of landless peasants reduced to casual work as agricultural laborers has more than doubled since Franco took over. Starvation on the big feudal estates is common. Travellers report that rural workers are actually dying of thirst as well as hunger, since they cannot afford to buy water. In the cities unemployment is mounting constantly, while Franco talks of offering one million troops for a new world war.

It remained for the chairman of the board of Westinghouse Corporation, one of the biggest of the electrical manufacturing trust in the U. S., to put the big bosses' feelings in a nutshell, when he said on November 10:

"I am in favor of cutting the Marshall Plan pie into 17 pieces and allocating a generous portion to spain . . . I think Spain would be more favorable to private enterprise as we think of it than our old friends in the British Isles. Spain should be welcome at the table."

Westinghouse has been dickering for a $30,000,000 electrical equipment order from Franco. Marshall Plan money would make certain that Franco couldn't welsh on his mortgage.

FTA President Donald Henderson and Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdes talk over contract terms with the Salt River Valley Division of Local 78 in Phoenix, Ariz. Seated at left is Local 78 officer Charles Law.

Pumpkin Stew a la Mode

Gather round, kiddies, while old Uncle Thomas gives you the latest recipe for Pumpkin Stew a la Mode, served with unAmerican trimmings.

First: take one leftover spy scare, preferably one that's been out of the refrigerator too long.

To this add a thoroughly discredited ragout (hash to you) of red-baiting. Sprinkle well with chopped election speeches. Stir, while wearing a mask.

Second: Fold a 10 year old microfilm containing vintage secrets from 1938. Plant behind the barn (remember the good times we used to have there?) on an old Maryland farm belonging to a middle-aged senior editor of Time.

Allow to simmer for 30 days after the election. Garnish with newspapers and serve on a Sunday morning when headlines are plentiful and cheap.

Seriously, does the House unAmerican Committee really think that people will fall for this?

Let us look at the thing coldly and objectively. The microfilm "found" in a pumpkin on the farm of Whittaker Chambers, unAmerican Committee witnesses on alleged spying was 10 years old. Even if very durable, we doubt it would last 10 years in a pumpkin—granted that a pumpkin would last that long, and behind a barn, too.

The "secrets" were also 10 years old. The average life of a secret in Washington is about two days. Any barfly in the National Press Club will tell you that. Like the pumpkin, the "secrets" in the microfilm must have been very dead indeed.

No, the unAmericans will have to do better than this. Hallowe'en is over long ago. The August heat wave, when people are really supposed to go soft in the head isn't here yet.

PASTE THIS IN YOUR HAT

These are quotes from campaign speeches by President Truman. Paste them in your hat for future reference.

TAFT-HARTLEY

"The Taft-Hartley Law is an instrument for union-busting by anti-labor employers . . . repeal the Taft-Hartley Act."—*Akron, October 11.*

PRICES

"The best way to stop it (rising cost of living) is with price control.—*Los Angeles, September 23.*

HOUSING

We'll break that housing shortage in spite of the real estate lobby.—*Newark, October 7*

CIVIL RIGHTS

"The kind of freedom where . . . every man has an equal chance to get a good education . . . every citizen has an equal opportunity to go to the ballot box to cast his vote . . . every man, woman and child is free from fear of mob violence and discrimination . . ." *October 29.*

UN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE

Of the un-American Committee: "no man feels safe against public airing of unfounded rumors, gossip and vilification."

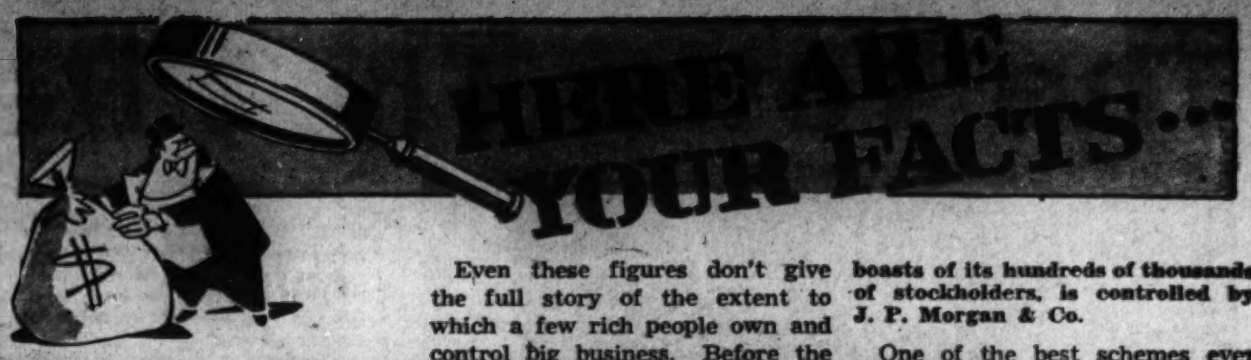
—*Washington, September 14.*

"We are against those who raise the cry of Communism to slander and obstruct policies conceived in the people's interests."

Oklahoma City, Sept. 28.

WAGES

"I shall fight with all my strength not only to keep wages up, but to increase them."—*Newark, October 7.*



Who Owns America?

By Joseph Califf
Research and Education Director

According to some of the propaganda that has been going around the country during the last few years, we are a nation of capitalists. You read, for example, that millions of people own stock in American corporations, and that the telephone company alone has more than half a million stockholders. If you believed some reports, you'd get the idea that big business is largely owned and run by widows and orphans who have invested their savings in corporation stock.

If you look into the matter, however, you find that widows, orphans, and workers own mighty little stock and have even less to say about how the business they are supposed to own is run.

FOUR TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT

The Federal Reserve Board has just published a study which shows that only about six million people own any stocks or bonds, not counting Federal Government bonds. The other 140 million Americans don't own any. This is quite a different picture from the 15 to 20 million stockholders which big business has claimed in the past.

Most of the people who do own stock don't have much. Only nine percent of the families in the country have any stock at all, but less than one percent own as much as $25,000 worth. The number of people who have as much as $25,000 worth of shares is probably not more than 600,000—four-tenths of one percent of the population.

There are very few stockholders among the working class. Only three percent of the families of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers own any stock, and only one percent as much as $1,000 worth.

Even these figures don't give the full story of the extent to which a few rich people own and control big business. Before the war, the Temporary National Economic Committee (TNEC), a committee of Congress, made an investigation of monopoly in the United States. It found that 10,000 persons owned one-quarter of all the corporation stock in the country. Half of all stock was owned by 75,000 people, who made up only six one-hundredths of one percent of the population.

WHO GETS THE GRAVY?

Who gets the profits? The TNEC found that 61,000 persons, one-twentieth of one percent of the population, got half of all the dividends paid out by American corporations. The 1,000 largest stock owners in the country got 10 percent of the dividends. After these few rich people take their cut there isn't much left over for the widows and orphans.

Even if he is lucky enough to have a few shares of stock, the average stockholder has nothing to say about the operation of the business he is supposed to own. The control of most corporations is held by a very few individuals who by direct ownership of stock and other means are able to choose the board of directors and to decide the policies of the business. Ownership or control of as little as five percent of the stock is often enough to give complete control of a company.

Many huge corporations are controlled by Wall Street banking firms and by multi-millionaire families like the duPonts, Mellons, and Rockefellers. The American Telephone & Telegraph Co., which boasts of its hundreds of thousands of stockholders, is controlled by J. P. Morgan & Co.

One of the best schemes ever invented for taking control of a business away from its owners and giving it to a few insiders is the one used by the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. This company has two kinds of common stock—voting stock and non-voting stock. Only 10 percent of the stock is voting stock, whose owners have a voice in deciding company policy at stockholders' meetings. The other 90 percent of the common stockholders have no vote and therefore no say in how the business is run.

Adding to this the preferred stock which also has no vote, you find that the owners of 94 percent of the company's stock have no voice in the company's affairs.

Reynolds has 70,000 stockholder "owners," but because of this stock setup, the business is actually run by only **15 persons** who are executives of the corporation and also make up its board of directors.

Among them these 15 men own 15 percent of the company's voting stock and doubtless control much more indirectly. This is enough to give them control of the company and enable them to reelect themselves as directors and officers year after year.

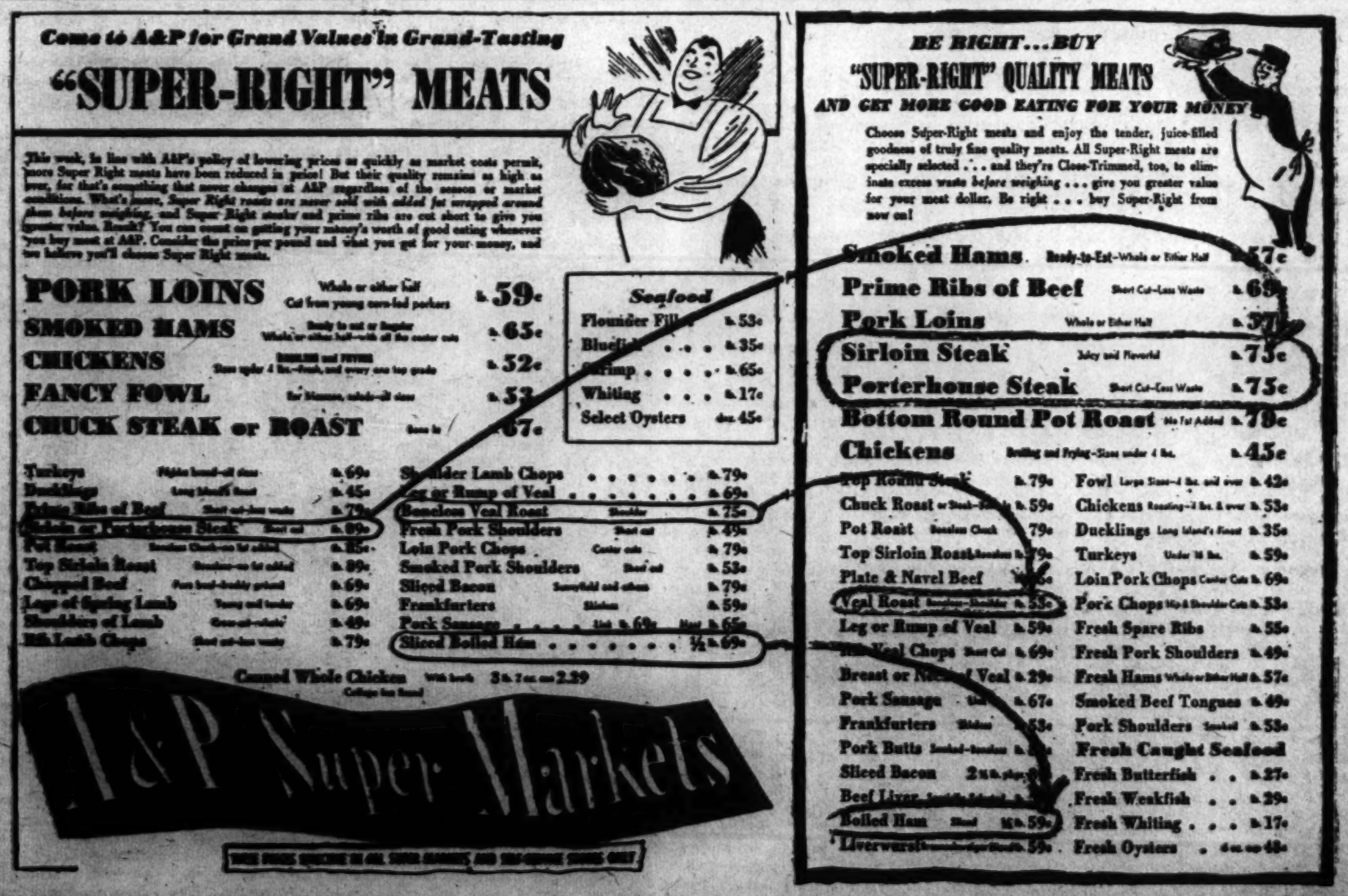
ASK $1 WAGE FLOOR

A minimum wage of $1 an hour under the Fair Labor Standards Wage-Hour act and state wage and hour laws was called for by the 15th National Conference on Labor Legislation just concluded in Washington.

The conference also recommended repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and all state legislation detrimental to the rights of organized workers.

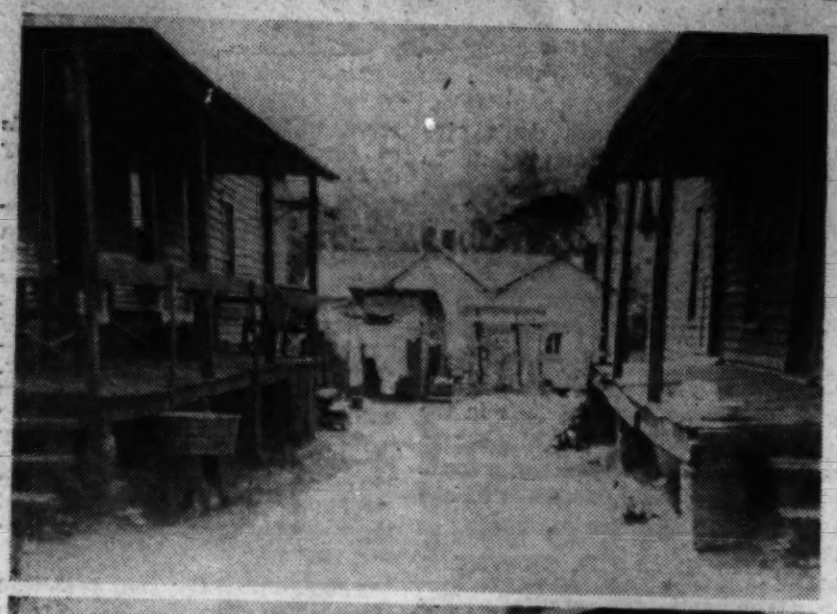
More than 143 labor commissioners and union representatives atended as state delegates appointed by their Governors. Total attendance was around 250 persons.

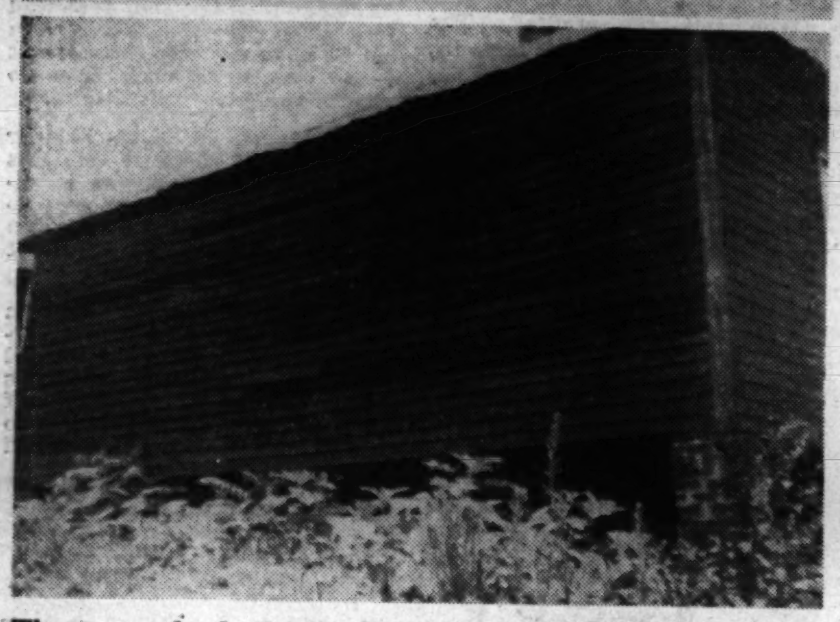
Three methods of strengthening enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards act were endorsed as follows: to provide a five-year statute of limitations in place of the present one year; to empower the Wage and Hour Division to help workers to collect wages due them under the act; and to expand inspections to insure more general compliance.



Administration bigshots say food prices are "levelling off" and hint strongly that price controls are not needed after all. The facts, however, prove the opposite, as this comparison of chain grocery supermarket prices between October 1948 and same period of October 1947 shows. Average increase in items shown in this advertisement was 15 cents, while some went as high as 22 cents. (Picture from "Union Voice", published by unaffiliated wholesale, retail and warehouse unions in New York.)

The Town That Reynolds Runs





The man who built this "house" must have saved a buck or two by not putting windows in it. Above, a street in Winston-Salem, N. C., where "Camels Leads the World."

This is how workers live in Winston-Salem, N. C., the town where all the Camel cigarettes are made.

The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. runs Winston-Salem lock, stock and barrel. It is one of the biggest and most profitable of the Big Four of the Tobacco Trust. Reynolds is currently fighting the union, FTA Local 22, with everything a half billion dollar company has.

The workers who make Camel cigarettes and whose labor creates Repnolds profits don't live in houses like these because they like to. They live in them because that's all there is to live in, for a Reynolds worker in Winston-Salem, N. C.

(A few weeks ago, an 18-year old girl, one of the heirs of the Reynolds fortune, married her childhod sweetheart. It made a charming story in the newspapers. Her slice of the Reynolds fortune was given at $6,000,000.)

Before the workers at Reynolds organized in FTA Local 22, wages were as low as 30 cents an hour. There was no seniority. A worker could be fired at a minute's notice, with no appeal. You worked in Reynolds until you died—if you didn't get fired first.

(The town of Winston-Salem, the county and the state were an open shop paradise. The second biggest enterprise in Winston-Salem, a textile [illegible] is run-down [illegible] unemployment is run-ungamized. So is the bulk of the textile industry in North Carolina.)

The Reynolds workers are fighting for their union. They know that Reynolds wants to go back to the sweatshop wages that were paid before the FTA was built.

A working couple with four children pay $10 rent for this in Winston-Salem, N. C., home of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

This toilet is the only one for the six "apartments" on the street shown above, left. There is also one water tap.

FE-CIO Defies Merger Dictate

(The CIO Farm Equipment Workers Union, chartered by the national CIO eleven years ago as a separate international union has been ordered by the majority of the CIO Executive Board to dissolve its union within sixty days and to merge with the United Auto Workers. FE's Executive Board has responded by voting to present the demand to its members. The FE Board statement follows in full, as a mater of interest to all workers.)

1. The national CIO Executive Board, meeting in Portland, Oregon, on November 27th, 1948, adopted a resolution submitted by the president of the UAW-CIO ordering our union, the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers of America, CIO to dissolve and ordered the officers of our union to turn the membership over to the UAW within 60 days. The Board further ordered that, upon our failure to do so within that time, the question shall refer back to the National CIO Executive Board for further action.

2. This action by the national CIO Board and UAW officials completely ignored the democratic rights of FE-CIO members guaranteed by our charter and our constitution. It is a threat to the democratic, constitutional rights of the members of all other CIO international unions. It constitutes an obvious conspiracy to destroy a duly chartered and long-standing international union of the workers of the farm equipment industry.

This arbitrary order by the national CIO Board has disregarded the welfare and future well-being of the rank-and-file members of our union and their contractual security. It is not only alien to the policies upon which the CIO was founded, but alien to traditional American democratic principles. Top CIO officials are asking our membership to pay the price of their contracts, their wages, their working conditions and their Union to satisfy the power-hungry, selfish purposes of UAW officials.

3. Mindful of our duties and obligations to the membership who elected us to office, the international executive board of FE-CIO, meeting in Chicago on December 3rd and 4th, 1948, cannot blindly comply with this 60-day ultimatum. Our union shall consider this dictatorial order of top officials of the CIO and the UAW in the light of what is in the best interests of the membership of our union.

This question, which seriously affects the rights and the welfare of our membership, can be decided only by the membership in accordanc with the provisions of the constitution of our international union and in a manner which permits delegates representing the entire membership of our union to arrive at a collective decision on ths or any other question of policy.

Therefore, in order to give our membership an opportunity for thorough discussion and final decision of this matter in accordance with simple American democratic principles, as well as the traditions of our union, we refer the question to the forthcoming convention of our union, convening of which has already been arranged and which will be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 25th, 26th and 27th, 1949.

4. Until the convention has acted the officers and representatives of the union would violate their sworn obligations if they yielded to the dctatorial 60-day ultimatum and entered into any meetings or conferences with any parties looking toward destruction of our union and arbitrary transfer of our membership.

We do not have the power or the desire to treat the thousands of men and women in our organization as puppets to be moved about like pawns. They and they alone acting through their duly elected delegates in convention can decide whether they wish to dissolve the organization they have have built in years of struggle.

The International executive board of FE-CIO will take any constitutional action deemed necessary in performing its duty to protect the future well-being of our membership, their contractual gains, wage scales, working conditions and all other hard won benefits.

We pledge ourselves to safeguard and protect the democratic rights of our local unions and our membership in order that the supreme delegated authority, the international convention of our union, shall be able to render a decision free from confusion, intimidation or coercion.

Local 80 Members Approve Sick Plan

Eighty percent of the members of FTA Local 80 have approved the sick and accident benefit plan coming into effect under New Jersey state law January 1, the local's "Bulletin" announced this week.

The plan will be financed from three quarters of the "one cent you are now paying to the state of New Jersey for unemployment compensation," the bulletin said.

Under the plan, workers at the Campbell Soup plant will get $25.00 a week in sick benefit for a maximum of 26 weeks, starting with the eighth day of sickness. Similar amounts will be paid for injury incurred outside the plant. (Injury inside the plant is already covered by Workmen's Compensation.)

Maternity benefits of $25.00 a week for four weeks will also be paid.

Workers can get benefits for more than one period of disability in a year. Workers who are laid off after January 1, 1949, can collect benefits up to 26 weeks if they become sick or disabled within two weeks of the layoff. If a worker has been employed one day in January, 1949, he is covered by the plan.

FTA Local 80's ball team is a winner. Shown left to right, seated are: R. Vespo; J. Brandt; M. Gallo, shop steward and team manager; A. Perona, assistant steward and T. Mignone. Standing are: J. Gallo, chairman Local 80 sports committee; J. Di Palma; J. Carabra; E. Zeller; J. Lee; Anthony Valentine, business agent and A. Napoli.